

THE
Pleasant Conceits of Old
HOBSON, the merry Londoner.

full of humorous discourses, and witty
merryments, whereat the quickest wits may laugh,
and the wiser sort take pleasure.



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To the right Worshipfull, Sir *William*
Stone Knight. Mercer to the Queenes
most excellent Majestie.

YOur friendly disposition (right Worshipfull) giving grace to the well meaning mindes, hath emboldened me amongst others, to testifie that good will in outward shew, which my heart of long time hath secretly bore to your Worship; and now taking opportunity, I present to your fovourable censure, this small book, containing many quick flashes of the witty jests of old *Hobson* the merry Londoner, lately a Citizen of good estimation. And I thinke not altogether forgotten of your Worship: Receive this little Treatise (I beseech you) with favour answerable to my good will, & as your leasure shall serve, bestow now and then a little reading thereof, which if it please you to doe, I doubt not but you will like well of the labour, and besides the honest recreation which it offordeth, apply what your worship maketh choise of, unto your private pleasure: and this wishing your prosperity, acceptance to this my gift, and opinion of the giver: I conclude, hoping that my honest wish shall not be yoid of a happy successe.

*Your worships most humbly
to command,*

Richard Johnson,

travels not for her back

T H E

Pleasant life of old Hobson

the merry Londoner, full of humerous
discourses, and witty merriments, where-
at the quickest wits may laugh,
and the wiser sort take pleasure.

Of Master Hobsons description.

In the beginning of Quene Elizabeths
most happy Reigne our late deceased
Soveraigne, under whose peacefull go-
vernment long flourished this our Country of
England, therelived in the Citie of London a
merry Citizen, named old Hobson a Haber-
dasher of small wares, dwelling at the lower
end of Cheape-side, in the Poultry, as well
known through this part of England, as a
Sergeant knowes the Counter gate: he was
a homely plaine man, most commonly wea-
ring a buttoned Cap close to his eares, a short
Colours girt about his middle, and a paire of
slippers upon his feete of an ancient fashion,
as for his wealth it was answerable to the bet-
ter sort of our Citizens, but of so merry a dis-
position that his equall therein is hardly to be
found: hereat let the pleasant disposed peo-
ple laugh, and the more graver in carriage take

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no exceptions, for here are meriments without hurt, and humorous jests labouring upon wisdom: reade willingly, but scoffe not spitefully, for old Hobson spent his dayes merrily.

2. Of Master Hobsons proverbs.

N Ot many years since, there was Sir John Baynes. (by the common voice of the City) chosen Sheriffe of London, which man in former times had been Mr. Hobsons Wrentise, and riding along the streets with other Aldermen, about the Cittie business, was saluted by M. Hobson in this manner, Wones a me man what a clock horse-knabe, and thy Master a foot here's the world turn'd upside down: Sir John hearing this his Masters merry salutation, passed along with a pleasant smile, making no answer at all, upon which slight regard, M. Hobson took occasion to say as followeth: here's pride rides on horseback, whilst humilthy goes a foot, in speaking these words came foure other Aldermen riding after Master Sheriffe, whose names were these: Alderman Ramsfey, Alderman Bond, Alderman Beecher and Alderman Cooper, at whose passage by he made this pleasant rime.

1. Ramsfey the rich, 2. Bond the flour,
3. Beecher the gentleman. 4. & Cooper the lout.

This

of old Hobson.

This pleasant Rime so sodainly spoken by
M. Hobson is to this day, accounted for his
Proverbe in London.

3. Of M. Hobson and John Tawny-coat.

M After Hobson being a Vaberdasher of
small wares (as I said before) and his
shop on a time full of customers, his negligent
prentises earlly credited a Kentish Pedler
with 10. pounds of commodities, neither
knowing his name, nor his dwelling place,
which oversight, when M. Hobson understood,
and noting the simplicty of his servants, and
their forgetfulness, demanded what apparell
the fellow had on: marry Sir (quoth one of
the Prentises) he had a Tawny-coate then
(quoth M. Hobson) put down John Tawney-
coate, and so was the Pedler by the name of
John Tawny-coate, entred to the booke; a-
bout a moneth after, the same Pedler came
again to London to buy ware, and comming
to M. Hobson in a Russet coat, willed him to
turne over his booke for ten pounds that one
John Rowlands owed him: Ten pounds (qd.
M. Hobson) that John Rowlands oweth me,
I remember no such man, bones a good knave
thou owest me none: But I do, said the Ped-
ler: whereupon the booke was seached, but
no John Rowlands was to be found. I thinke
thou

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thou art mad (quoth Hobson) for thou owest me nothing : but I doe, quoth the Pedler, and will pay it. Being in this strife a long time, one of his servants said that he had found in the beek, such a debt by one John Tawny-coat, That is my selfe, replied the Pedler, I was then John Tawnycoat though I am now John Russet-coat, so paid he ten pounds by the same name to M. Hobson, and receiued twentie more upon his own word and name of John Rowlands, the which twentie pound he shortly after paid for suretyship, and so by his over-kind heart, paying other mens debts he grew so poore, and into such necessity, that he was forced to maintaine his living by hedging and ditching, and other such like countrey labours : within a while after this, M. Hobson comming into Kent to seeke up some desperate debts, he came to Dartford, where finding this poore man ditching for a Goat a day, in pittie of him said, how now John Tawny-coat, bones a God man thou canst never pay with this poore labour, come home knave, come home, I will trust thee with twentie pounds more, follow thy old trade of pedling againe, and one day thou mayst pay me all.

Thus the Pedler had new credit of M Hobson, by which good meanes he grew rich, that in time he bought his freedome of London, and

of old Hobson.

and therein grew so wealthy a Citizen that he became one of the Masters of the Hospitall, and when he dyed he proved a good benefactor to the same house.

4 How Master Hobson called the Lord Maior of London knave by craft.

M After Hobson in his youthfull time having nothing to dinner on a day but bread and cheese, good beere and a red herring, and being merrily disposed to jest, came unto his doore to sit, where he said to a Sergeant of London, I have din'd this day (quoth he) as well as my Lord Maior: the Sergeant hearing this and being a pick-thanke companion, went and certified his Lordship thereof, who immediately sent for M. Hobson, being then a man but of meane estate, who no sooner being come into his presence, but his Lordship would needs know the cause of his comparison clapping twenty knaves on poore Hobsons shoulders. I mean not Sergeants, but knaves of my Lord Maiors o'wn making? I will teach thee knave (quoth his Lordship) how to use my name in thy comparison, and not in thy beggerly dinners, and drunken banquets to compare with me, and whillett you live to except me in any thing: and thereupon sent

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M. Hobson to the Counter, where he lay some two or three dayes without bayle : but at last being set at liberty, he met with the same Sergeant againe : whom he saluted in this manner, well met Sergeant (quoth he) by thy meanes I am commanded to except my Lord Maior in all things and so I will, for I thinke in my conscience, thou art the veriest knabe in all London, except my Lord Maior. Thus M. Hobson most cunningly called my Lord Maior and the Officer, both knaves.

5. How Master Hobson made a light banquet for his company.

UPon a time M. Hobson invited very solemnly the whole Libery of his company to a light banquet, and for the same provided the greatest Tabern in all London in a readinesse : the appointed houre being come, the Cittizens repaired thither richly attired the better to grace M. Hobsons banquet, but expecting great cheere and good entertainment, they were all utterly disappointed : for what found they there thinke you : Nothing on my word, but each one a cup of wine and a manchet of bread on his trencher : and some five hundred candles lighted about the Roome, which in my minde was a very light banquet
both

of old Hobson.

both for the belly and the eye : by this merry Jest, he gain'd such love of his company, that he borrowed gratis out of the hall, a hundred and fiftie pound for two yeare.

6. How Master Hobson chaulkt his Prentises the way to the Church.

EUermore when M. Hobson had any busi-
nesse abroad, his Prentices would either
be at the Taberne filling their heads with
wine, or at the Dagger in Cheap-side, cram-
ming their bellies with minst pies : but aboue
all other times it was their common custome
(as London Prentices use) to follow their
Masters upou Sundayes to the church doore,
and then to leaue them, and hie unto the Ta-
bern, which M. Hobson on a time perceiuing
one of his men so to doe, demanded at his com-
ming home, what the Preachers Tert was.
Sir (quoth the fellow) I was not at the be-
ginning. What was in the middle, quoth M.
Hobson) Sir, quoth the fellow, then was I
asleepe : said M. Hobson againe, what was
then the conclusion, then replied his servant,
I was come Sir away before the end : by
which means he knew well he was not there,
but rather in some Tipling house, offending
Gods Majestie, and the lawes of the Land :
there-

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therefore the next Sunday morning after, Master Hobson called all his servants together, and in the sight of many of his neighbors and their Wrentises, tooke a piece of chawke and chawked them all the way along to the Church directly, which proved a great shame to his own servants but a good example to all others of like condition, after this was there never the like misdemeanour used amongst them.

7. How Master Hobson hung out a Lanthorn and a Candle-light.

In the beginning of Q. Elizabeths Reigne when the order of hanging out Lanthorn and candle-light was first brought up, the Beadle of the ward where Master Hobson dwelt in a dark evening went crying upon and down, hang out your Lanthornes hang out your Lanthornes using no other words. Whereupon Master Hobson took an empty Lanthorn, and according to the Beadles call hung it out; this stout by the Lord Mayor was taken in ill part, and for the same offence was Master Hobson sent to the Counter, but being Released the next night the Beadle thinking to ammend his call, cryed with a loud voyce, hang out your lanthorn and candle, hang out your Lanthorne and candle. Master Hobson hereupon hung out a Lanthorn and

of old Hobson.

And a candle unlighted as the Beadle againe
and commanded, whereupon he was sent againe
to the Counter : but y next night the Beadle
being better advised, cryed hang out your lan-
thorn and candle-light, which M. Hobson did,
to his great commendations, which cry of lan-
thorn and candle-light is in right manner used
to this day.

8. How M Hobson baited the
Devill with a dogge,

N Ot far; from M. Hobsons house, there
dwelled one of these cunning men, other-
wise called fortune-tellers, such cunning com-
panions to this day. (by their crafts) make
simple women believe how they can tell what
husbands they shall have, how many children,
how many sweet-hearts and such like : if goods
be stole, who hath them with promise to help
them to their losses againe. With many other
secretfull illusions : To this wise man, (as
some termes him) goes M. Hobson not to
reape any benefit by his crafty cunning, but
to make a jest and a tryall of his experience :
causing one of his servants to lead a mastie
dogge after him, staying at the cunning mans
more with the dogge in his hand : up goes M.
Hobson to the wise man, requesting his skill,
for he had lost ten pound, lately taken from

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by thæbes, but when and how he knew not well, the cunning man knowing M. Hobson to be one of his neighbors. and a man of a good reputation, fell (as he made shew) to conjuring and casting of figures, and after a few words of incantation, as his common use was, he took a very large faire looking glasse, and bad M. Hobson looke in the same, but not to cast his eyes backward in any case: the which he did, and therein saw the picture of a hogge and a large Ox with two broad hornes on his head: the which was no other wise, but (as he had often deceitfully shewed to others) a rozening fellow like the cunning man himselfe cleathed in an Oxes Hide. which fellow he maintained as his servant to blinde peoples eyes withall, and to make them beleve he could shew them the Devill at his pleasure in a glasse. This vision M. Hobson perceiuing and guessing at the knavery thereof, gave a whistle for his dogge, which then stayed below at the doore in his mans keeping which whistle being no sooner heard, but the dogge ran upstairs to his Master, as he had been made, and presently fastned upon the pore fellow in the Oxes hide, and tore him as it was pitifull to see: the cunning man cryed, for the passion of God take of your dogge: no (quoth M. Hobson) let the Diuell and the dog fight

venter

of old Hobson.

center thou thy Diuell, and I will venter my
dogge: to conclude, the Dr. hide was torne
from the fellows back, and so their knave-
ries were discovered, and their cunning shifts
laid open to the world.

9. How Master Hobson allowed his wife two
men to wait on her to the market.

AS M. Hobson increased in riches, so in-
creased his wife in pride, in such sort that
she wold seldome goe out of doores without
her man before her. Upon a time having bu-
sinesse to Cheap-side market, amongst many
other of her neighbours, the more to shew her
high and haughty stomack, desired of her hul-
band that she might have her man to attend
her: who seeing her disposition, willingly con-
sented thereunto, and thereupon called two of
his lustiest men put them in armour with
two browne bills on their necks, placing one
of them before her, the other after, and so pro-
fered to send her forth to market: she in a
nicenesse took such a displeasure hereat, that
for a moneth after she lay sick in her bed, and
would eate nothing but Caldoles made of
muskadine.

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10. How Master Hobson made a jest of his mans name.

O Pref M. Hobsons Prentices by name was called George Bacon, a neare kinsman of Sir Nicolas Bacon, L. Keeper of England, a youth of much forwardnesse and good government : neer unto M. Hobson, dwelled a Grocer, which had likewise to his servant a youth, called by the name of George Hogge, also of a good wit and a pleasant disposition : their two Prentices were great companions, and spent much time together, whereat M. Hobson being much displeased, called the said George Hogge to him, saying, I marvel my boy (quoth he) why thou keepest my man Bacon company, knowing him to be a Prentise but newly bound, and thou thy selfe another mans servant : to whom replied this George Hogge wisely saying : your man Bacon, Sir is a neare kinsman of mine, and we can by no means part friendship: How knave (quoth M. Hobson) a kinsman of thine : let me understand how it comes : marry thus answered the boy, my name is Hogge, and his is Bacon, two names that cannot chuse but be of a kindred : Nay, not so my lad (quoth M. Hobson) a hogge is no kinsman to Bacon

till

2 of old Hobson.

till he be hanged, and when thou art hanged,
thou shalt be my man Bacons kinsman, till
then thou art but a bare hogge : thus by the
jest did M. Hobson part their companies.

11. Of an Epitaph that Master Hobson made
for a dead man.

There was a very rich Citizen dwelling
not far from London (W. ge) who in his
lifetims was never known to doe any deed
worthy of memory : who dying, left M. Hob-
son his only Executor, to dispose of his goods,
as also to lay upon his grave a faire marble
stone : and as upon marble stones there be
commonly ingraven certaine verses in the
manner of an Epitaph of the mans conversa-
tion thereunder buried, so M. Hobson consider-
ing what Epitaph he would set upon his
friends grave, knowing the few good deeds he
did in his life time, caused these two verses
following to be ingraven upon the marble
stone.

E P I T A P H.

He was begotten, borne and cryed,
He lived a long time, fell sick and dyed.

He was Long

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12. How Master Hobson proved him-
felfe a Poet.

MAfter Hobson having occaſion to ride
into the wilde of Kent, where in that age
Schollers were ſomewhat ſcarce, during the
time of his tarryance there, there happened to
be buried one John Medcaulfe, a very ſuffici-
ent Farmer, upon whole grave was written
theſe verſes following, in faire Roman
letters:

I deſire ye in the Lords behalfe,
To pray for the ſoule of poore John Calfe.

Maſter Hobson noting the ſimplicity of the
verſes, writ underneath as followeth:

O thou death more ſubtill then a Fox,
Thou mightſt a let this Calfe lived to be
an Oxe:

To have eate graſſe, hay, and corne,
And like his ſire to have worne a horne.

and of old Hobson.

13. How Master Hobson served an Innkeepers wife.

Continuing in the wilde of Kent, M. Hobson being benighted in travel, it was his chance to happen into a very poore Inne, where was no more Beds in all the house but two, the one for the good man and his wife, the other for the Guests that came thither: and both these beds stood both in one Chamber: for indeed there was no more lodging roomes in all the Inne: M. Hobson having supt, was lighted to bed by the Host himselfe, who like an unmannerly Chamberlaine set M. Hobson neerer a Chamberpot: which he looking for round the Chamber espied a wooden Bowle under the good mans bed, and a straining dish of the same fashion hanging up against the wall: the straining dish then M. Hobson takes and sets under the good mans bed, and removed the Chamber-bowle from thence, and sets it under his own. The good man and his wife, according to custome, came to bed without light, where they had not long laine but the good wife had occasion to make water and thereupon desired her husband to reach her the Chamber-bowle, the which he did as he thought, but being deceived by

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by M. Hobson, he Gave her the straining dish, wherein when she had made water, it ran quite thorow upon her husband : goods my life (quoth the Good man) woman thou spill'st over, no Husband, no (quoth she) it is not yet at my thumbe : which in my opinion, was a marke and custome they had : M. Hobson hereat could scarce sleep for laughing, but lay and spent the whole night with merry imaginations.

14. How Master Hobson found his Factor in France with a French Curtizan.

M After Hobson having in France a Factor which dealt for him in Merchandise, and laching divers sorts of wares to furnish his Chapmen for Bristol faire, sent to his aforesaid Factor (being a merry conceited youth) for certaine matches of such commodities as were then most in request : he mistaking his Masters meaning, sent him all the matches used for Gunpowder that could be bought in France, the value of two thousand pounds worth : M. Hobson receiving them, and seeing himselfe matcht with a commodity of matches, thought all was not well in France, and that his man neglected his business there.

of old Hobson.

To know the truth thereof, the next morning very early, not revealing it to his Wife, in a night gowne, a buttoned cap, and a paire of Shippers, tooke Shipping at Billingsgate, and passed oter into France, where after some enquiry made of his mans life and conversation, he found him in a lewd house, rebelling with a most gallant French Curtizan, whom M. Hobson after a smile or two saluted in this manner: What now knave: what a wenching knave: a rack and manger knave: bones of me cannot a snatch and away serbe your turn knave: is this the French wares you deale withall knave: his man seeing himselfe so taken napping, for a time stood amazed, not knowing what to say, but recovering his senses, he gave his Master this pleasant answer. Though Sir, this ware is a broken commodity, yet may we deale with them: being dealers with all wares, or rather Haberdashers of small wares, which is seldome lik'd of French Gentlewomen: M. Hobson at this pleasant answer could not chouse but pardon him, and so came they both over into England, where now this rack and manger is grown to a Proverbe.

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15. How Master Hobson got a patten for
the sale of his matches.

The Commodity of Matches which his
Factor sent him from France, bring now of
sale, considering the little use for them, being
in time of peace, like a witty Citizen, Master
Hobson hies himseife to Court, being in the
rapes of our gracious Quéene Elizabeth, and
having a patten ready made for the sale of the
foresaid matches, where so soone as he came
into the Quéenes presence, he knieled downe,
and desired her grace to give an assignement
to his Patten, declaring What it Was,
and the great losse he was like to sustaine by
that commodity; the Q. perceiuing for what
patent he came, and considering the benefit
that would come by such a grant, and mean-
ing to give it to some Gentleman néere unto
her, as a recompence for his service, said un-
to M. Hobson, my friend (said the Q.) be con-
tent for thou shalt not have thy patten sealed,
nor will I give thee thy request: M. Hobson,
hearing the Q. denyall, said, I most heartily
thanke your Majestie, both I and all mine
are bound to thanke and pray for your High-
nesse: and low obeyssance, went his way: at
these his words the Q. much marvelled, and
when

of old Hobson.

when he had gone a little from her, she caused him to be sent for back againe, whom when he was returned, the Q. asked if he did well understand what answer her Grace did give him: yes truly said M. Hobson: What said I (quoth the Q.) Harry your grace bid me be content for I should not have my desire, nor my patten sealed: why did you then (quoth the Q.) geve me such great thanks: because (said M. Hobson) your Grace gave me so speedy an answer, without either long suit, or losse of time: the which would have been to my very much harme and great hindrance, for I have at home a great charge of household to which I am bound in duty to looke diligently, and to provide carefully, The Q. marking well the wisdom and discret answer of M. Hobson, and now conceiving a new favour towards him, said now shall you give me twice thanks and have your patten sealed, and your desires performed that you sue for. So casting her eyes upon the Lord Chancellor, commanding the same by him to be done, which was accomplished with all speed whereby in short time he had quick sale of his commodity of matches to his hearts content, and his wealths great increase.

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16. Master Hobsons jest of ringing of the Bells upon the Queenes day.

UPON Sant Hewes day, being the 17. of November, upon which day the triumph was holden for Q. Elizabeths happy government, as bonefires ringing of bells, and such like, but in the Parish where Master Hobson dwelled he being Church-warden, was no ringing at all by reason the Steeple was a-meybing, and the bells down and being asked by a servant of the Queenes house, why they ringed not: he answered because they had no bells in their Steeple: Then quoth the Queens man, you may very well sell away your Steeple: Why so, quoth M. Hobson, because quoth the other, it standeth empty and vacant: to whom M. Hobson replied againe, we may better sell away our Pulpit, for these twelue moneths was there neber a Sermon in the same, and it rather stands empty and vacant. After this the Parson of the Church preached every Sunday following.

of old Hobson.

of the 17. Of a Beggers answer to Master Hobson.

17. of **A** Poore beggar man, that was soule, black,
umply to M. Hobson, as he walked in Poore fields,
oberv. and asked some thing of him for an almes: to
such whom M. Hobson said I pray the fellow get
Hobson from me, for thou lookest as thou cammest
as no lately out of hell: the poore Beggar percei-
ad a- ving he would give him nothing, answered;
asked forsooth Sir, you say true, for I came lately
they out of Hell indeed: why didst not thou tarry
ad no there still, quoth M. Hobson? Nay sir quoth
ueens the Beggar, there is no roome for such beggar
your men as I am, for all is kept for such Gentle-
cause men Cithen as you be: this witty answer
d ba- caused M. Hobson to give the poore man a
aine, teaster.

mon 18. How long M. Hobsons daughter mourned
and for her husbands death.
urch

7. Of **M** After Hobson had a Daughter which
was a very faire young woman, who
made great sorrow & lamentation for her hus-
band that lay a dying: no meanes could com-
fort her: wherefore her father came to her
and said, Daughter leave off your mourning.

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for if God take away your Husband, I will speedily provide you another of great wealth and credit as he is now of, and far more young and lusty: but yet for all this, would she not leaue mourning and grew greatly displeased that her Father made any motion of another husband, protesting that she would neuer marry more. But now marke the variable minds of women: her husband was no longer dead and buried, the charges of his burfall paid for, and she with her friends set at supper to comfort her, betwene sobbing and weeping she whispered her father in the eare and said: Father, where is the man that you said should be my Husband: Thus you may see (quoth M. Hobson) the nature of Women kind; and how long they mourne for their Husbands after they be dead: these words made the young woman neuer after to aske her father for a husband.

19. Master Hobson causing his man to set up a signe.

M After Hobson having one of his Men as new come out of his time, and being made a free-man of London, desired to set up for himselfe: so taking a house not far from Saint Laurence Lane, furnished it with store

of old Hobson.

store of ware, and set the signe of the Maiden-head: hard by was a very rich man of the same trade, had the same signe, who reported in every place where he came, that the young man had set up the same signe that he had one-ly to get away his customers, and dayly ver-ed the young man therewithall, who being grieved in mind told M. Hobson, his late Ma-ster, who comming to the rich man said, I marvell sir, (quoth M. Hobson) why wrong you my man so much as to say, he seeketh to get away your customers, marry so he doth (quoth the other) for he hath set up a signe called the maiden-head as mine is, What is not so (replyed M. Hobson.) for this is the Willdowes head, and no Maiden-head, there-fore you doe him great wrong: the rich man hereupon seeing himself requited with mocks rested satisfied, and never after that envied M. Hobsons man, but let him live quietly.

19. Of M. Hobsons jest of a louse and a flea.

UPon a time M. Hobson going to my L. Palors to dinner amongst the Livery of his Company, and being waichted on by one of his Prentices, the said Prentise spyed a louse creeping upon the side of his Collar and toke it off. M. Hobson espying him to doe something in secret, asking what it was: the fellow

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fellow being ashamed, was loath to tell him
 but being importuned by his Master, said
 was a Louse : sh (quoth M. Hobson) this
 good luck : for it sheweth me to be a man, for
 this kind of vermine chiefly breedeth on man
 kind, and thereupon gave fife shillings to his
 man for his labour : another of his Prentices
 being a pick-thanke knave, and having heard
 that his fellow had fife shillings given him for
 taking a Louse off his Master, (having him
 Col'd likewise on) and made as though he
 took a flea from the same, and conveyed it
 privately away : but when M. Hobson constrai-
 ned him to tell what it was, with much dis-
 sembling shamefastnesse, he said it was a flea
 M. Hobson perceiving his dissimulation, said
 to him, what dost thou make me a dogge : for
 fleas be most commonly breed upon dogges
 and instead of his expected reward, he recei-
 ved fiftene stripes ; for said M. Hobson, there
 is a great difference betwixen one that doth
 thing with a good mind, and him that doth
 thing by dissimulation.

21. How one of M. Hobsons men quitted him
 with a merry jest.

MAfter Hobson had a servant that he had
 long before made a free-man, and was
 still at M. Hobsons commandement, and did
 him much good service, wherefore upon a time

of old Hobson.

he came unto his Master and said Sir, I have
done you service long time justly and truly,
wherefore I pray you bestow something upon
me to begin the world withall: fellow go. Mr.
Hobson, thou sayst true, and thereon have I
thought many times to doe a good turne, now
will I tell thee what thou shalt doe. I must
shortly ride to Bristow Faire, and if thou wilt
beare my charges thither, I will give thee such
a thing, as shall be worth to thee an hundred l.
I am content go, the fellow; so all the way as
he rode, his man bore his charges, and payd
for all things duly, till they came at the last
lodging, and there after supper he came to his
Master and said, Sir, I have borne your char-
ges as you commanded me, now I pray you
let me know what the thing is that will be
worth to me 100. pounds: did I promise thee
such a thing (go, his Master:) you did, said the
fellow: shew me in writing (go, his Master)
I have none, said the fellow, then thou art
like to have nothing, go. M. Hobson; and learn
this of me whensoever thou makest a bargain
with any man, loke that thou take a writing
for thy security and be well advised how thou
givest thy bond to any man, this thing hath be-
nefited me in my time 200. l. and so it may
likewise doe thee: thus when the poore fellow
saw there was no remedy, he held himself con-
ten

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tent, and all that night pondered in his minde how to grow quittance with his master, so on y morrow when his Master had dispatched his businesse in the Town, and was set for ward back againe towards London, he tarried a little behind to reckon with the Hostess where he lay, and of her he borrowed as much money on his Masters cloake as came to all the charges that they spent by the way. M. Hobson had not rode past 2. miles but that it began to rain, whereupon he called for his cloake of another servant that rode by, who said that it was behind with his fellow, who had it with him: so they tooke shelter under a tree, till he overtooke them; when he was come, M. Hobson most angerly said: thou knabe, why comest thou not alway with my cloake: the fellow answered, Sir and please you, I have laid it to pawn for your charges all the way; Why knabe sd. M. Hobson, didst thou not promise to beare my charges to Bristow? did I. quoth the fellow: yes, said M. Hobson, thou didst: shew me a writing thereof, saith the fellow, whereunto M. Hobson seeing himself so cunningly over reached, answered but little.

22. Of M. Hobsons riding to Sturbidge faire.

MAfter Hobson on a time in company of one of his neighbors, rode from London towards Sturbidge faire, so the first night

of old Hobson.

of their journey they lodged at Ware in an Inn where great store of company was and in the morning when every man made him ready to ride and some were on horseback setting forward; the Citizen his neighbour found him sitting at the Inn gate booted and spurred in a private study, to whom he said, for Name M. Hobson why sit you here, why doe you not make your selfe ready to horseback that we may set forward with company? M. Hobson replied in this manner, I tarry (quoth he) for a good cause: for what cause quoth his neighbour: marry quoth M. Hobson, here be so many horses, that I cannot tell which is my stone, and I know well, when every man is ridden and gon, the horse that remaineth behinde must needs be mine.

23 How M. Hobson found a farmers purse:

Here was a Farmer that lost 40. pounds betwixt Cambridge and London, and being so great a summe, he made proclamation in all market towns thereabout, that whosoever had found 45. l. should have the five pounds for his labour for finding it, and therefore he put in the 5. l. more then was lost: it was M. Hobsons fortune to finde the same summe of 40. l. and brought the same to the Bayliffe of Ware, and required the 5. l. for his paines, as it was proclaimed: when the Country,

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Farmer understood this, and that he must needs pay five pounds for the finding, he said, that there was in y^e purse 45. l. and so would he have his moneey and five pounds ober : so long they strove, that the matter was brought before a Justice of peace, which was then one M. Fleetwood, who after was the Recorder of London : but when M. Fleetwood understood by the Bayliffe, that the proclamation was made for a purse of 45. l. he demanded where it was, here qd. the Bailly, and gave it him : it is just 40. l. said M. Fleetwood ; yes truly (qd. the Bayliffe :) here M. Hobson, said M. Fleetwood, take you this money for it is your owne, and if you chance to finde a purse of 45. l. bring it to this honest Farmer : thats mine. qd. the Farmer, for I lost just 40. l. you speake too late (qd. M. Fleetwood,) Thus the farmer lost the money, and Master Hobson had it according to justice.

24. How Master Hobson was a judge betwixt two women.

There dwelled not far from Mr. Hobson, two very ancient Women, the youngest of them both was about 60. years of age, and upon a time sitting at the Taberne together, they grew at variance, which of them should be the youngest, as Women indeed desire to be accounted younger then they be, in such

man

of old Hobson.

manner that they layd a good supper, of the
 value of 20. s. for the truth thereof; M. Hob-
 son they agreed upon to be their Judge of y^e
 difference: so after M. Hobson had know-
 ledge thereof, the one came to him, and as a
 present gave him a very faire pigeon pie worth
 some 5. s. desiring him to passe the verdit on
 her side: within a while after the other came:
 and gave M. Hobson a very faire greyhound,
 which kinde of dogges he much delighted in:
 praying him likewise to be favourable on her
 side, wherefore he gave judgement that the
 Woman that gave him the Greyhound was y^e
 younger, and so she won the supper of 20. s.
 which she perceiving, came to him and said,
 Sir, I gave you a Bidgion p^{ie}, and you pro-
 mised the verдите should goe on my side: to
 whom M. Hobson said, of a truth good wo-
 man, there came a Gray-hound into my house
 and eat up the pigeon p^{ie}, & so by that meanes
 I quite forgot thee.

25. Of the pride of M. Hobsons wife.

M After Hobsons wife carrying something
 a stately mind, and delighting in brave
 apparell, upon a time walking abroad with o-
 ther Women her neighbours, they espyed a
 paire of silke stockings upon her legs, and de-
 siring the like, never let their husbands to live
 quiet after, till they had silke stockings of the
 same.

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same fashion: so within a weeke or two following, their husbands came complaining to M. Hobson, and said, Sir, (quod. one of them) suffrance of your Wifes pride, hath spoyle all ours, for since she hath woone like stock-
ing, our wives have grown so importunate that they must needs have the like, and you are the chiefeest cause in suffering her to wear the same: O god my neighbours quod. M. Hobson) I have great cause in doing so, and it brings me much quietnesse, as how (quod. one of them, marry thus (neighbours) for seeing I cannot please her above the knee, I must needs please her below the knee, and the onely way to please a woman is to let her have her will.

26. Of Master Hobsons rewarding a Poet for
a books dedication.

Upon New-years day, M. Hobson sitting at dinner in a Poets company, or as you may terme him, a writer of Histories there came a poore man and presented him a couple of Drenches, which he kindly took as a New-peers gift, and gave the poore man for the same an Angell of Gold and thereupon gave them to his Wife to lay up among other Jewels, considering they had likewise cost him an Angell, the which she did, the Poet sitting by, and marking the bounty of M. Hobson

of old Hobson,

son for so small a matter, he went home and devised a book containing 40. sheets of paper, which which was halfe a yeare in writing, and came & gave it to M. Hobson in dedication, and thought in his minde, that he in the recompencing the poore man so much for an Orange, would yield far more recompence for his booke, being so long in studying. M. Hobson took the Poets Booke thankfully, and perceiving he did it only for his bounty shewed for the Orange given him, willed his wife to fetch the said Orange, being then almost rotten, and gave to the Poet, saying, here is a Jewell which cost me a thousand times the worth in Gold, therefore I thinke thou art well satisfied for thy books dedication: the Poet seeing this went his way ashamed.

27. How M. Hobson gave one of his servants the halfe of a blind mans benefit.

M After Hobson seeing still very good to the poore and most bountifull to aged people, there came to him usually twice or thrice a week, a silly poore old blinde man to sing under his window, for which he continually gave him 12. pence a time. M. Hobson having one of his servants so charlish, and withall so covetous, that he would suffer the blind man to come no more unless he shared halfe his benefit, the which the blinde singing man was forced to give rather then to lose all: after twice or thrise parting shares, M. Hobson had thereof intelligence, who consult-

The pleasant Conceits

ing with the blind man, serued his seruant in this manner; still he looked for halfe whatsoeuer he got, so this at last was M. Hobsons gift, who gave commandement that the blind man should haue for his singing threescore jerks with a sufficient whip, and to be equally parted as the other Gifts were the which were presently giuen; the blind mans was very easie, but M. Hobsons mans were very sound ones, so that euerie jerke drew blood, after this he neuer sought to diminish his Masters bounty.

28 How M. Hobson found out the pie-thealer.

In Christmas holy dayes when M. Hobsons wife had made pies in the Oven, one of his seruants had stole one of them out, and at home had merrily eaten it: it fortuned vpon that day some of his seruants dined with him, and one of the best pies were missing; the stealer whereof after dinner he found out in this manner: he called all his seruants in friendly sort together to the hall, and caused each of them to drinke one to another, both warme Ale and baire, till they were all drunke, then caused he a table to be furnished with very good cheare, whereat he likewise pleased them; being set altogether, he said, why sit you not down fellows, we be set alreadyd go they. Say go. M. Hobson he that stole the pie is not yet set, yes that I doe, quoth he that stole it, by which meanes he knew what was then become of the pee, for the poore sel-

of old Hobson.

1010 being drunke could not keepe his blaine se-
crets.

1019, Of M. Hobson and a Doctor of Physick.

Upon a time when M. Hobson lay sick and
in very great paine, there came unto him a
D. of Physick that told him he could not escape,
but must needs dye of that sicknesse. M. Hobson a
while after, not by the D. helpe, but by the will
of God recovered, and was whole of his disease,
yet was he very low, and bare brought and as he
walked forth one day, he met the said D. which
doubting whether he was the sick man or no, said
are not you Sir, the man called M. Hobson : yes
truly; (qd. he) are you alive or dead, said the D.
I am dead qd. M. Hobson : what doe you here
then said the Doctor : I am here qd. M. H. b. o. r.
because I have experience in many Earthly
things, and God hath sent me to the World a-
gaine, with a commandement to take up all phy-
sitions I can get, and send them thither to him,
which made him look pale, M. Hobson seeing this,
said unto him, feare not M. Doctor, though I said
all Physicians, you are none; & there is no man
that hath wit, will take you for one, therefore
you are not in my charge : farewell.

30, How M. Hobson answered a popish Frier.

In the Reigne of Q. Mary, when this Land
was builded with superstition, there was a po-
pish Frier that made an Oration in the Charter
house yard, where many souldiers were slain.

The pleasant Conceits

of people, to heare the same. Whom amongst
which number, there late M. Hobson, which much
ertelling him that was then Pope of Rome, com-
paring him to St. Peter, for in degree he raised
him above all the holy Fathers in that part, as
Doctors, Martirs, Prophets, yea and above more
then Prophets, John Baptists: then (said he) in
what high place shall the place this good man,
what place I say, is fit for him, or where shall he
sit: M. Hobson hearing him speake so profitab-
ly, and sitting among the Audience, start up and
said, if thou canst finde no other place, set him
here in my place, for I am weary, and so went
his way: and so to a his way and (of. 69) : 31.
How Master Hobson won a wager in making
a Knight to laugh.

There was a Knight dwelling in London,
that for the death of his wife would not be
comforted, nor of many daies was once seen to
smile: upon a time the Chamberlaine to this
Knight, being in company with M. Hobson, laid
a wager of 40. shillings with him, that he should
not make the Knight laugh by any means that
he could see, wherupon the match was made,
and the money staked down, for the winning of
the same. M. Hobson gets him an ill-favoured
spassy bitch almost starved, and fills her belly
with so much butter-milke and whey, that she
seemed to burst: so comming into the presence
of the Knight, he held the bitch so fast

on the mouth and nose, that through the stopping
of her winds, and her belly being so overcharged
with butter milke, that so strained her, that she
filled all the knights Chamber: herent Chamber-
laine grew so angry, that he said he would
make old Hobson make it cleane, so put his nose
into it: and so Chamberlaine, said M. Hobson, I
will not take your offite out of your hand, for it
is your duty to make cleane the chamber: here-
at the knight laughed very heartily, and so M.
Hobson won the wager of the Chamberlaine.

1132 How M. Hobson answered Musicians.

Upon a time M. Hobson lying in S. Albones,
there came certain Musicians to play at his
chamber doore, to the intent as they filled his
eares with their musick, he should fill their pur-
ses with money: where when he had one of the
servants of the Inne (that waited upon him) to
goe and tell them, that he could not then indure
to heare their musick, for he mourned for the
death of his mother, so the Musicians disappoint-
ed of their purpose, went sadly all away. The
fellow heard him speake of mourning, asked him
how long agoe it was since he buried his mother,
truly he. M. Hobson it is now very neere forty
yeeres agoe, the fellow understanding very well
his subtilty and how wittily he sent away the
Musicians, laughed very heartily.

The pleasant Conceits

33. Of M. Hobson teaching a Cow to spake.

Vpon a time M. Hobson being in company of a London Alderman, and being merclly disposed took ten pounds of the said Alderman, upon this condition, that if he made not a Cow to spake in ten yeares, and to read per sect English, he would have for the same a hundred: the match being made, with in few dayes after came one of his Neighbours and said he was anwise, and that he undertook a thing impossible, & that every body laughed him to scorn: to whom M. Hobson smiled and said, neighbour, I am nothing afraid of loosing my hundred, for in the space of ten yeares, either I, the Cow, or else M. Alderman may dye.

34. M. Hobsons teaching his man to use money.

MAfter Hobson had a servant so covetous, and withall so simple witted, that all the money he could get together hid in the Ground, of the which M. Hobson having some intelligence, fell a conjuring in this manner; with a Wand he so belaboured my young man that he presently revealed where it lay: the which sum of money M. Hobson tooke quite away all, saving a small summe; the which the poore fellow put to so good a use in bying and selling, that in short time he greatly increased it: When M. Hobson understood what he had done, & what good use he put his money to, he said, Sirra, you can tell how to use money, and learne to make prophet there.

of old Hobson.

thereof, I will restore to thee all againe, and so he did, which made the fellow ever after a good husband.

35. How M. Hobson flouted a Jester.

Vpon a time M. Hobson dined with a company of merry fellows, amongst whom there was one that found much fault with his merry jests, and as the company sat laughing and sporting together, they asked one another which was the most reverent part of a mans body one said the eye, and another said the nose, another said the hand; but M. Hobson said the mouth was the most reverent part. Marry said the fellow that was the sinde-fault, the part that we sit on is y^e most reverent part: and because the company marvelled why he made this reason, marry (quoth the fellow, he is most reverent among the common people, that is first still set, which saying contented them all, and caused much laughter amongst them; and he that spoke it was not a little proud of his saying, in that he had overcome (as he thought in wit) M. Hobson: this passed on, the next night following, they were bidden againe to supper to the same place, where M. Hobson remembered the former jest of this scoffing fellow: thereupon he turned his back-side toward him, and saluted him with a great fart against his face, the fellow disdainng his rude salutation, said, ill nurtur'd old Anabo, where wast thou brought up? why disdainest

The pleasant Conceits

thou this (qu. M. Hobson) if I had saluted thee with my mouth, thou wouldest have found fault, as an inferiour part, and now I greet thee with that part of my body, which by thine own saying is the most reverent, thou art displeased; thus gat M. Hobson againe the praise that he had lost before, & the worse fellow was laughed at of the whole company.

36. Of M. Hobsons sore eyes, and his answer to the Physitians.

UPON a time, when M. Hobson had lost eyes another Physitian came to him thinking to have some recompence for his counsell, warning him that he should in any case forbear drinking, or else by the same lose his eyes: to whom M. Hobson said, it is much more pleasure for me to lose my eyes with drinking, then to keepe them for worms to eat them up. Another time a Physitian came to M. Hobson and said, Sir, you looke well, and grieve at nothing, and have a healthfull countenance. Thus (qu. M. Hobson) for I have not to doe with any Physitians, nor with Physick: to whom he replyed, Sir, said he, you have no cause to blame the Physitian for his Physick never did you hurt. Thou sayest true qu. M. Hobson) for if I had proved Physick, I had not been here alive. Another Physitian came to him on a time and said, Sir, you be a very yeld man: very true, (queth M. Hobson) for it is wert never my Physitian: such manner

of old Hobson.

that checks and flouts would he still give to them
that spake to him of physick, for in his life he ne-
ver tooke any.

37. How Master Hobson sold charmes for the
Plague.

Vpon a time in London, when great plagues
was suspected to come, the common people
went daily in great number to Physicians to
prevent it. Hobson seeing their simplicity,
and the doubt they had of Gods merite, went a-
bout to hinder the Physicians, whereupon he not
onely gave out speeches to his neighbours, but in
most parts of the City, saying, that he had little
writtings fast sealed up, had such a vertue, that
whoever bore it hanging about his neck 15.
daies should not die of y plague: the foolish people
trusting hereupon every one after his power,
gave him money for a serohole or writting sealed
up, with a thred of silke about it, charging them
that they should not open it, till it hung about
their necks for the space of fiftene daies, for if
they tooke it away afore that time, it was of no
verting. Within a while after, the desire of folks
was to know the contents of these writtings: so
in opening of them they found these lines writ: y
womens charme for the plague was this.
Woman when thou stoopest low, this lesson thou
shalt finde,
Take heed of thy hinder part, for breaking too
much winde.

The pleasant Conceits

thou this (qd. M. Hobson) if I had saluted thee with my mouth, thou wouldest have found fault, as an inferiour part, and now I greet thee with that part of my body, which by thine own saying is the most reverent, thou art displeased; thus gat M. Hobson againe the praise that he had lost before, & the worse fellow was laughed at of the whole company.

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of old Hobson.

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that spake to him of physick, for in his life he ne-
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Woman when thou stoopest low, this lesson thou
shalt finde,

Take heed of thy hinder part, for breaking too
much winde.

The pleasant Conceits

As to such men that were so simple-witted as to beleefe his merry perswasions, and thereupon would fondly bestow their mony he gave likewise this charme in writing :

Man that drinketh late over night take counsell by a foole : When thou risest pray unto God, thou mayst have a good foole.

This was all the skill that M. Hobson had & the greatest helpe he could teach them : but this merry medicine of his made the ruder sort more wise, and not after that time so vainly to cast away their money.

38. How M. Hobsons jest of the sign of S. Christopher.

MAfter Hobson and another of his neighbours on a time walking to Southwarke faire, by chance drunke in a house at the signe of S. Christopher, of the which sign the Good man of the house gave this commendation, S. Christopher (qd. he) when he lived upon earth, bore the greatest burthen that ever was, which was this he bore Christ over a river : nay there was one (qd. M. Hobson) that bore a greater burden : who was that (qd. the In-keeper) marry (qd. M. Hobson) the Ass that bore both him and his mother : so was the In-keeper called Ass by craft. After this talking merrily together, the afo. esaid In-keeper being a little whittled, or gone with drinke, and his head so giddy, that he fell into y^e fire, people standing by, ran suddenly and tooke him.

of old Hobson.

riuer, may there was one (quoth M. Hobson) that boze a greater burthen, who was that (quoth the In-keeper) marry, quoth M. Hobson, the asse that boze both him and his mother : so was the In-keeper called asse by craft. After this talking merrily together, the aforesaid In-keeper beeing a little whittled, or gone with drinke, and his head so giddy that he fell into the fire, people standing by, ran sodainly and toke him vp, oh let him alone (quoth M. Hobson) a man may do what he will in his owne house, and lye wheresoeuer he listeth ; the man hauing little hurt, with this fright grew immediately sober, and afterward forced M. Hobson & his neighbour so exceedingly, that comming ouer London brig, being very late, ran against one of the chaine-polls, at which M. Hobson thinking it to be some men that had iustled him, drew out his budgion dagger, and thrust it vp even to the very hilts into the hollow post, wherupon verily he had thought he had killed some man : so running away was taken by the watch, and so all the test was discovered:

The pleasant conceits

39. Of Maister Hobsons answere to a messenger of the Lord Maiors.

VPon a time M. Hobson had arrested one of my Lord Maiors kinsmen for a certayne debt owing him, and being in the Counter, my Lord Maior sent one of his Officers for to intreat M. Hobson to be fauorable & kind vnto his kinsman, telling a long tale, and to little purpose, whom M^r. Hobson answered in this manner: my friend (quoth he) what thou saidst in the beginning I doe not like of, and what was in the middle I doe not wel remember, and for thy conclusion, I vnderstand it not: and this was all the fauour M. Hobson shewed to my Lord Maiors kinsman.

40. How Maister Hobson bade an Alderman to dinner.

THIS M. Hobson on a time had a seruant that was full of words, and too much talkatiue, beeing offended therewith hee gaue him in charge, to say nothing, and to answere to that he was demanded and no more: so vpon a day M. Hobson

of old Hobson.

Hobson made a great dinner, and sent his said seruant some two dayes befoze to inbite an Alderman of Londen thereunto, so vpon the day when dinner time came, all the guests staid for the Aldermans comming till two of the clocke, and at last M. Hobson said vnto his seruant: didst thou bid M. Alderman to dinner? yes truly said hee, why commeth he not then, quoth M. Hobson? quoth the fellow, he said he could not: why toldst thou mee not so, quoth M. Hobson? because said the fellow you did not ask me? Herevpon (though long first) they went all to dinner, and being merry together drinking of Wine, there came in a certaine Russian and stole one of the fairest silver cups away: the which the fellow seeing, said neuer a word but let him goe, which when M. Hobson missed, hee demanded of his seruant where it was: Sir, quoth the fellow, a theefe came in and stole it away: why didst thou not stay him (quoth M. Hobson?) marry sir, quoth he, because he asked no question of me: after this, M. Hobson noting the simplenesse of his seruant, let him haue his tongue at free liberty.

The pleasant conceits

41. How M. Hobson grew out of loue with an Image.

In the raigne of Q. Mary when great superstition was vsed in England, as creeping to the crosse, worshipping of Images, and such like: it was Ma^r. Hobsons chance amongst other people to bee in the Church, and kneeling to an Image to pray, as it was then vsed, the same Image by some mishap fell downe on M. Hobson and broke his head, vpon which occasion hee came not thither in halfe a yeare after, but at length by the procurement of his neighbours hee came to the Church again, and because he saw his neighbours knéele befoze the same Image, hee knéeled downe likewise, and said thus, well I may cap and knéele to thee, but thou shalt neuer haue my heart againe so long as I liue: meaning for the broken head it had giuen him.

42. How M. Hobson said he was not at home.

On a time M. Hobson vpon some occasion came to M. Fleetwoods house to

of old Hobson.

to speak with him being then newly chosen
the Recorder of London, and asked one
of his men if he were within, he said he
was not at home, but M. Hobson percei-
uing that his master had him say so, and
that he was within not being willing (at
that time) to be spoken withall, for that
time dissembling the matter he went his
way: Within a few dayes after it was
M. Fleetwoods chance to come to M^r.
Hobsons, and knocking at the doo, asked
if he were within: M. Hobson hearing
and knowing how he was deaped M^r.
Fleetwoods speech before time, spake
himselfe aloud and said: he was not at
home; then said M. Fleetwood, what M.
Hobson think you that I know not your
voice, whereunto M. Hobson answered
and said: Now M. Fleetwood I am quit
with you: for when I came to speake
with you, I beleeued your man that said
you were not at home, and now you wil
not beleene mine owne selfe: and this
was the merry conference betwixt these
two merry Gentlemen.

The pleasant Conceits

43. How he answered a Scriuener of the old religion.

VPon a time, what with age, and
misdocting himselfe he took so great
a sicknesse, that he grew in danger of
death, whereupon a Scriuener dwelling
by was sent for, who sauoyng some what
of the popish religiō, councelled M. Hob-
son to take the Sacrament, which is, said
the Scriuener, the very body and bloud
of Iesus Christ: to whom M. Hobson re-
plied being then bpō a Fryday, sh neigh-
bor (quoth he) I will eate no flesh on fa-
sting dayes: the Scriuener hearing him-
selfe flouted of the sicke man, moued to
him no further questions, but fell to ma-
king of his Will, as followeth.

44. Of maister Hobsons last Will and Testament.

In the name of God Amen: I Maister
Hobson the merry Londoner, whole of
mind, but sicke of body, do here make my
last will and testament, in manner and
forme following. First I giue my soule
to

of old Hobson.

to God, for that is his : my life to death,
for he spares no man : and my body to
the worms, for thats their nourishment :
all my lands, tenements and moveables,
to my wife and children, reserving a few
legacies, which I meane to bestow on
the World.

I giue to all Gentlemen such a desire
of price, that shortly an outlandish bro-
ker by them, shall be held more in request
then an English Bayler, and that Lon-
don Citizens shall grow wealthy by the
fall of riotous Courtiers: also I giue and
bequeath to London Merchant wines,
that they shall carry the mindes of La-
dies of the Court, euery moneth sick of
a new fashion. Also I bequeath that
Country Farmers wines shall be in the
fashion of the boyne buske, and silke gir-
dles. Likewise, to Chamber-maides,
and waiting Gentlewomen, I giue all
my huge poaking stiches, and French
pertwigs : But as for my smaller sort
of poaking stiches, I bequeath to the
modest sort of Citizens wines. Also I
bequeath to all Wenches aboue thirtene
yeares of age, golo Hatbands, change-
able fozs-parts, and silke girdles : and
to

The pleasant Conceits &c.

to young married men, I giue all my yellow garters: points and shoe-strings, all of a sutable colour: and to Kitchen maids that scowre pots, and scrape trenchers, all my washt gloves and silke laces: and to all country dairie wenches, that ride to London markets with cream and butter-milke, all my maskes, wyper-busks, and silke coloured scarfes: and to conclude, to all England I bequeath the pride and fashions of all other Nations: and if any will further vnderstand what other gifts old Hobson the merry Londoner hath bestowed, inquire at his graue at S. Mildreds Church in the Poultrey in London, where he now lieth buried.

FINIS.

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The picaresque Conceits &c.

to young married men, I giue all my yellow
garters: points and shoe-strings, all
of a sutable colour: and to Kitchen maids
that scowre pots, and scrape trenchers,
all my washt gloves and silke laces: and
to all country dairie wenches, that ride
to London markets with cream and butter-
milke, all my maskes, wyper-busks,
and silke coloured scarfes: and to con-
clude, to all England I bequeath the
pride and fashions of all other Nations:
and if any will further vnderstand what
other gifts old Hobson the merry Londoner
hath bestowed, inquire at his graue
at S. Mildreds Church in the Poultry
in London, where he now lieth buried.

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